

REMARKS

The Examiner has identified errors in claims 3 and 35, which were corrected above. Applicant sincerely appreciates the Examiner's effort to carefully review the claims and find these mistakes.

The Examiner found claims 10, 25-27, 49, and 64-66 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 11-24, 28-34, 36, 41-48, 50-63, 67-74 under 35 USC 103(a) citing U.S. Patent 6,078,924 (Ainsbury) and U.S. Patent 6,760,748 (Hakim). Claims 35-37-40 were similarly rejected, but cited also U.S. Patent Application Publication No. U.S. 2004/0165007 A1 (Shafron).

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the rejections.

The present application discloses a software object for enhancing an application such as a word processor or spreadsheet program. The disclosed software object is able to read an ordinary expression displayed by the enhanced application and then request from a data source, information based on that ordinary expression.

This software object has the ability to display the requested information alongside the ordinary expression. The prior art does not display these two pieces alongside each other. Also, not only are the two pieces displayed alongside each other, the user can specify in advance the relative spacing between the requested information and the ordinary expression. Thus, the user has the advantage of simultaneously viewing in a familiar environment and in the same document or file, the ordinary expression alongside the information derived therefrom. The spatial

relationship between the requested information and the ordinary expression is under the control of the user and can be placed either close together or far apart (e.g., adjustable relative spacing between spreadsheet cells or lines/pages of a word processing document).

In particular, the two independent claims (amended claims 1 and 41) recite "transferring the requested information to the application for processing and display alongside the ordinary expression" and "allowing the user to specify in advance of a request where the application will display the requested information relative to the ordinary expression." As explained below, the cited art does not suggest such an arrangement. With the prior art the pieces are not displayed alongside each other with a relative placement that is adjustable in advance by the user.

The Examiner cites Ainsbury as a system for obtaining information from diverse sources (the Internet or a database distinct from the application). The Examiner also notes that Ainsbury can parse the data obtained from these sources using predetermined information about the expected layout of a web page.

Applicant already acknowledged these aspects of Ainsbury in the introduction to the present specification, which states in pertinent part:

In U.S. Patent 6,078,924 applications such as Word™, Excel™, or PowerPoint™ can be extended with menus and buttons enabling a user to gain access to a database maintained by a catalog server and information server. The user can request that the catalog server obtain information from the World Wide Web and store the collected information in the database. This system can parse the information obtained over the Internet.

However, the Applicant does not agree with following statement by the Examiner (page 4) concerning Ainsbury and believes it to be inaccurate:

Ainsbury teaches said interface to be operable to select the ordinary expression from among other features displayed by said application and identify the ordinary feature to the query generator, or to select and identify the ordinary expression by permitting the user to enter identifying information, or to select and identify the ordinary expression by permitting the user to point to the ordinary expression (col. 13, lines 49-50; *users to identify criteria selections*).

Emphasis in original. The following section in Ainsbury (col. 13, lines 46-63) is cited by the Examiner but the Applicant does not see how it provides support for the above assertion:

The information platform maintains access scripts for collection information from each source, both the Information Source Catalog and the Specific-Site Search Catalog. As such, users may be required to enter various criteria based on the needs and intricacies of each site's search engine. Rather than have the user input criteria for each site, the information platform maintains User Sets.

< User Sets >

User Sets store and maintain frequently used criteria for collection and search. The user sets contain information including for example:

Companies to watch list; and

Product to watch list.

User Sets Display: User Sets are displayed using a tree view list you control. Sets are presented in the hierarchy of folders and sub-folders for organization.

Creating Sets: Users sets may be created from scratch by the user, or compiled as the result of a result list.

The Examiner also says that Ainsbury teaches at column 14, lines 30-47, an interface "operable to select and identify a spreadsheet cell containing the ordinary expression, or [if] said application is a word processing program, said interface being operable to select and identify a location corresponding to the ordinary expression." The

undersigned carefully read column 14, lines 30-47, but did not find any feature for pointing to a location in a spreadsheet matrix or word processing text and fetching from that location an ordinary expression that is then used to request information from a data source.

Because Ainsbury's disclosure is so lengthy, one must labor to avoid losing sight of the big picture. Specifically, Ainsbury discloses a very large application accessible throughout an enterprise for gathering and organizing information into a shared "catalog." When Ainsbury's system uses another application such as Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Word, those other applications are simply a destination for displaying information fetched from the catalog. See column 5, lines 44-47; column 14, lines 31-32; column 14, lines 55-59; and column 46, lines 5-7.

At its heart, Ainsbury's application is a searching system. It provides its own distinct tools for inputting search terms. Column 37, lines 11-13 makes it clear that search terms are inserted by using the interface provided by the Ainsbury application itself. Ainsbury goes even further and suggests that "menu items can be optionally installed in Word and Excel, supporting catalog browsing, and information retrieval." Column 14, lines 61-67. However, installing menu items is simply not the same as reading the ordinary expressions displayed by the subsidiary application (in this case Excel or Word) and displaying information derived from the ordinary expression "alongside" the ordinary expression. Ainsbury simply does not disclose displaying these two pieces alongside each other.

The other references cited by the Examiner did not satisfy the above noted

deficiencies of Ainsbury. These other references are cited to show features that are not truly controversial.

Regarding Shafron, the Examiner states that Ainsbury does not teach an object for enhancing an application and therefore cites Shafron as "a method of dynamically controlling and displaying a toolbar menu in a graphical user interface." In particular, Shafron describes a controlling program that creates a library file including ActiveX controls or plug-in functionality. This reference describes creating a pull down menu 44 in the toolbar 22 of a browser. As an example, Shafron suggests sending a user's bookmarks or address book to some temporary browser that may lack these items. Also suggested are pushing advertising links, offering an editing box for searching, and real-time notification of email, stock prices, news, etc. Shafron suggests that some web site can maintain control over the toolbar even if the browser is visiting a different web site. Much of this reference is concerned with defeating attempts by other software or even the operating system to terminate the added functionality.

The Examiner cites Hakim as "a method of providing information, wherein plug-ins are used to enhance the application's functionalities in filtering the received content for report generation." Hakim has an elaborate description of a network allowing communications between students and teachers. The section cited by the Examiner concern firewalls and proxies. Hakim notes that plug-ins can be added to these proxies "to extend their functionality to perform detailed content filtering, report generation, virus scanning, and more." Column 29, lines 41-43. Thus, Hakim's relevant disclosure is sparse and non-controversial.

Accordingly, none of the three cited references show an object for enhancing an application to allow an ordinary expression displayed by the application to be used to request information that when received is handled in a unique way; namely, none show as provided in amended claim 1:

- a composer for receiving requested information from the data source in response to said query generator and transferring the requested information to the application for processing and display alongside the ordinary expression; and

- an interface for allowing the user to specify in advance of a request where the application will display the requested information relative to the ordinary expression

None of the cited references are able to begin with an ordinary expression displayed by an application and finish by displaying the requested information alongside the ordinary expression in the same application. Moreover, none can allow a user to specify in advance the relative placement of the two pieces. In contrast, the presently disclosed system allows a person to place ordinary expressions inside a familiar application and without leaving the familiar application, the software object can conveniently respond by placing alongside the ordinary expression the information effectively requested by the ordinary expression. The relative placement of the two pieces is controlled in advance by the user.

Similar remarks apply to the other independent claim, amended claim 41, which provides in pertinent part:

- automatically transferring the requested information to the application for processing and display alongside the ordinary expression; and

- allowing the user to specify in advance of a request where the application will display the requested information relative to the ordinary

expression.

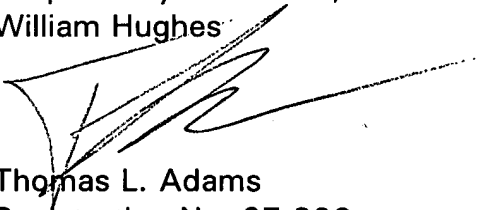
Ainsbury, Hakim and Shafron, even if combined, do not show displaying the requested information alongside the ordinary expression.

Moreover, the Examiner cannot properly take official notice of these features since they would be central to the rejection. *In re Ahlert and Kruger*, 165 USPQ 418, 421 (CCPA 1970). Moreover, official notice is inappropriate unless the noticed features are "capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being 'well-known' in the art." M.P.E.P. 2144.03.

The other claims depend from these independent claims and distinguish over the cited art for at least the reasons given in connection with those independent claims.

It is believed that the foregoing fully responds to the objections and rejections entered by the Examiner and places this application in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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